

# "A Bomb Without a Doubt," Says Burns; Red Wagon Near the Scene

Office and the Sub-Treasury, and were reinforced by another company later. For a time a squad armed with light Browning automatics stood guard on the steps of the Sub-Treasury. It was decided within two hours, however, that the protection afforded by the police was ample, and the soldiers were withdrawn.

## "A Bomb Beyond a Doubt," Says Burns

Their preliminary investigation convinced Federal, city and private detectives that the disaster was premeditated.

"It was a bomb beyond a doubt," said William J. Burns, head of the detective agency which bears his name.

It was found that the broken sash weights used as missiles were such as are used in dwelling houses and in no building in the vicinity of the explosion. The fractured faces on the fragments were worn and rusted, it was said, as though the iron of which they were composed had been broken long ago.

No hole in the pavement marked the spot where the wagon had last been seen, and this was taken to show that some explosive as TNT was used, rather than dynamite, which exerts its force downward. As to statements that the wagon bore the name of a firm manufacturing explosives, officials of that company said that none of their wagons had been seen below Sixteenth Street yesterday. A report that three men were seen running down Wall Street toward the East River just before the explosion is being investigated.

A trunk check found beside the dead horse may prove to be of some importance. The number of the check is 101,281. It was issued by the New York Central Railroad at Surance Lake to someone sending a trunk from that place to Washington, D. C.

Mr. Burns said he thought the wagon contained a mine of explosives, to be detonated by a device, long in use by dynamiters, consisting of a battery and an alarm clock.

When the explosion came the Stock Exchange was immediately closed, to guard against the loss of securities by messengers called upon to deliver them through the crowds that thronged the financial district. As it was, bonds valued at \$85,000 and 2,574 shares of stock were reported missing in the confusion. The exchange will open as usual at 10 a. m. to-day.

## Street Strewn With Dead, Injured And Wreckage Under Pall of Smoke

The explosion occurred just as the chimneys of Trinity Church were tolling the hour of twelve. Before they had ceased and to the echo of crunching glass the great avenue of finance resembled a battle-strewn field where only dead bodies and the forms of the injured lay in huddled heaps.

One eye witness mentioned the delivery wagon, which others said had been driven up to about a foot and one-half from the curb in front of the United States Assay Office, across the street from the Morgan office.

He said that while coming through Wall Street he saw the horse and wagon. The latter was light in color and was such as is used by grocers.

## Dead Scattered Over Street

Captain Joseph E. Engel jr., of the Bureau of Special Service, Police Department, was less than a block south of Wall Street, on Broad, at the time. Almost rocked from his feet by the quakelike vibration, he ran amid showers of glass to the corner of Wall, where he got his first glimpse of the destruction.

"There was not a soul in sight except the dead and injured lying on pavement and sidewalk," said Captain Engel. "There was the tinkle of falling glass, a few smoking awnings on nearby buildings, and a film of smoke."

"My first thought was that the explosion had occurred in the Mills Building," said Engel. "I saw the smoke, and I saw the wreckage of the Morgan office. As I collected my wits, I began to see shattered wheels, the axles and springs of a wagon, then the remnants of a horse and a battered automobile. Other people began to gather around. A few policemen came. We saw a woman, evidently a Spanish woman, and two little boys pick themselves up from the sidewalk in front of the Sub-Treasury Building."

"All three were injured and dazed. They began to look for a third boy, the woman frantically cried, had seen them. The dead were lying here and there. The injured began to move. Two girls who had evidently been passing the Morgan corner from Wall into Broad Street got up and ran. A woman was picked up by police in front of 36 Wall Street badly hurt and placed in a motor truck which came along."

"The scene perhaps fifteen minutes after the explosion was left to me," said Captain Engel. "It is my belief that almost all the persons within thirty or forty yards of the explosion in Wall Street were killed. Those I have mentioned miraculously escaped."

"When the crowd began to gather a few persons came staggering from the entrance to Morgan & Co. and nearby buildings. They were dazed but did not appear to be seriously hurt. But, I will never forget that empty street and the bodies lying in it as I turned the corner from Broad. It was, momentarily, a deserted village of great buildings except for the handful of dead figures that lay here and there."

## Chauffeur Blown Under Cab

Daniel Wordman, of 251 West 116th Street, a taxi chauffeur, standing in Broad Street, within fifty yards of the explosion, was blown under his car and his passenger was blown out of it, Wordman said.

"A man had just got into the taxi and asked to be taken to the Lafayette Hotel, and I was preparing to crank up when it seemed like the end of the world," he said. "Something seemed to knock me down and slide me under the machine. Glass absolutely rained from that building. I felt myself pointing to the twenty-one story structure at 11 Broad Street. 'The pavement rocked and trembled, and finally I crawled out from under the taxi. My passenger was lying in the street. Before I could speak to him he scrambled to his feet and ran up toward Nassau Street, holding his head. All the glass in the taxi was broken. A policeman came over and told me that I would have to take some of the injured to the Broad Street Hospital. I made two trips and carried six persons."

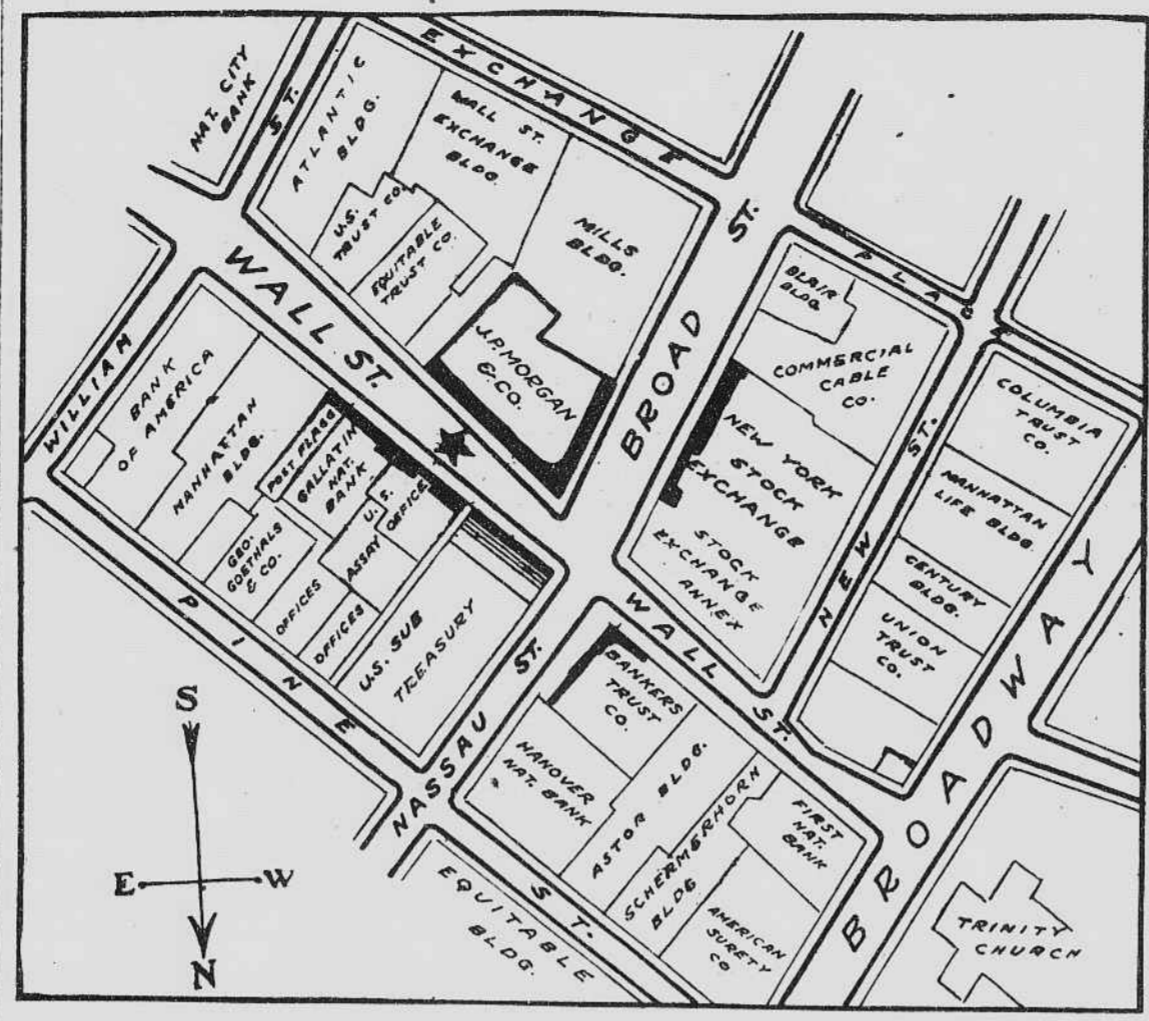
Wordman led a comparatively tranquil life as a sailor aboard the transport Siboney and the battleship New Mexico during the war. He said that yesterday was the most turbulent scene he had ever experienced.

**Knocked Down Twice**  
S. R. Hillis, of the Columbia Trust Company, who was an eye witness of the explosion without being injured, said the clock on Trinity Church struck twelve as he turned into Wall Street. He made his way to the Stock Exchange, and as he was directly in front of it the explosion occurred. He was knocked down, but rose quickly to his feet.

"Then again," he said, in telling his story, "I found myself sprawled in the street. I don't know what it was that knocked me down the second time."

**It Was Like Being Gassed**  
Maxwell Van Buskirk, who has an office on the ninth floor of the Mills Building, overlooking the Morgan office and the Sub-Treasury, said: "I was sitting at my desk near a window, until just a moment before the

The Scene of the Explosion



The star on the larger map indicates the position of the wagon which is supposed to have carried the explosive into Wall Street. The buildings indicated by heavy outlines are those which bore the brunt of the explosion.

## Nation-Wide Plot Feared At Capital

(Continued from page one)

New York there was a near-panic in the financial section of Philadelphia. Virtually all the big Philadelphia houses are either branches of New York houses or else have branches there. Drexel & Co. here is the Philadelphia branch of J. P. Morgan & Co. For a time the friends of E. T. Stotesbury, head of Drexel & Co. and senior vice-president of the Morgan firm, feared for his safety. It was known in high financial circles that Mr. Stotesbury goes to New York every Thursday for a meeting with the Morgan officials. Mr. Stotesbury, however, had foregone his usual New York trip and was in the West on business.

The Philadelphia police sent reserves and policemen in plain clothes in great numbers into the financial sections there to protect the big houses. Drexel & Co. was under heavy guard, and all entering were carefully scrutinized. The same process obtained at the Federal Reserve Bank, the Stock Exchange and the Custom House.

Philadelphia bankers were not greatly worried over what might happen there. Many of them inclined to the belief that the explosion had been accidental. They were most anxious to know whether any of their friends in Wall Street had been killed or injured. Robert Kelso Cassatt, member of Cassatt & Co., one of the biggest of the Philadelphia private banking firms, said he believed the explosion had been accidental.

Department of Justice operatives, with the secret service of the Treasury Department in Washington, will co-operate with New York City officials in the investigation of the explosion here.

**Flynn Takes Charge of Case**  
Attorney General Palmer, immediately after learning of the disaster, dispatched William J. Flynn, chief of the bureau of investigation of the department, to New York with instructions to head the Federal investigators on the case.

At the same time Secretary of the Treasury Houston directed W. H. Morgan, chief of the Secret Service Division of the Treasury, to send all available men to New York to give whatever assistance possible to the local authorities.

At the War Department it was said that Major General Robert L. Bullard, commanding the Eastern Department at Governors Island, had complete authority to detail soldiers to the financial district for protection of the Sub-Treasury, and to give whatever aid was required in preventing any further damage that might be attempted.

Officials of the Department of Justice said the lack of Congressional approval will not cut down the number of investigators that can be assigned to the case.

**Police Invite Information**  
Clews, However Slight, Desired From All Witnesses  
At the direction of Mayor Hylan, Police Commissioner Richard E. Enright issued the following bulletin after he and the Mayor had inspected the damaged zone:

"All persons in the vicinity of the scene of the explosion who can give any information, no matter how slight, regarding any of the details, especially regarding vehicles in the street which might have caused the explosion, or the presence of any suspicious persons at the time of the explosion, should communicate such information to the police at once. Call any police station or headquarters."

**It Happened**  
—And We Couldn't Handle All of the Injured  
**It Can Happen Again**  
—Help Us So We Can Help You!

Yesterday a catastrophe struck home—you know the story—the dead and the wounded lying helpless on the street waiting, begging for help that had to be summoned from all over the city—some even dying on their way in cabs, trucks and ambulances to distant hospitals.

All because WE couldn't even crowd them all under our roof. All because, through want of funds, through want of thought by business men, this most populous and congested "Wall Street" district has not had adequate hospital protection.

What has happened can happen again. We are appealing NOW to the business and financial interests of the "Wall Street" district to help us make our equipment adequate to protect THEM and THEIR employees and to succor them in moment of need.

Give and give liberally. It is for your own protection, for your own benefit.

Whether your limit is \$1.00 or \$10,000, open your purse and send contributions to

**The Broad Street Hospital**

## Wagon Axle Hurled 38 Stories; Washington Statue Untouched

Hundreds Have Narrow Escapes From Death; Iselin Building Awnings Catch Fire; Scenes Reminiscent of France

Much mystery was attached to the twisted and battered wreck of what once had been a touring car, standing at the Wall Street curb, directly in line with the explosion. It was more than two hours after the first blast when its owner, D. S. Belden, a South Orange (N. J.) jeweler, appeared on the scene and claimed what was left of his car.

"I came to New York to-day," he said, "to see my accountants. I stopped my car alongside the Morgan office and left it about ten minutes before the explosion. That's why I'm here now."

Aside from a few bits of wood, the only trace of the wagon that blew up was a bottle of pills the driver evidently had been taking to relieve an attack of indigestion.

A chauffeur's card bearing the name of Jerome H. McKean, 1407 Nelson Avenue, the Bronx, was found in the street after the blast, and for a time it was believed he had been driving the dynamite wagon and had been killed.

A fire scare added to the panic of the tenants in the Iselin Building just after the shock of the explosion. The front of the building were ablaze.

A tenant on the thirty-eighth floor of the Equitable Building notified the police that a wagon axle had been thrown through his window.

One freak of the blast was that none of the workers of Albert A. Volk Company, house wreckers, who were clearing away the site of the Stock Exchange addition at Wall and Broad streets, was injured.

While the excitement was at its height a photographer was permitted to make a picture of the interior of the Morgan offices. When he set off the flash light even the veteran policemen jumped.

It was a common sight an hour after the blast to see men and women with bandaged heads and faces circulating through the crowd. Virtually everybody who was on the street had been hit.

Where millionaires' luxurious automobiles are often parked, at the curbs of Broad and Wall streets, in the afternoon were solid rows of ambulances, one backing in after another pulled out carrying away the dead and wounded. Such a scene of carnage had never before visited New York's greatest financial center. The great Bank of England witnessed a similar scene, however, barely four years ago, when floods of German Gothas plastered the vicinity of that institution with high explosive bombs. And a similar scene during the war was also enacted within a stone's throw of the Credit Lyonnais, the big banking institution of Paris.

Except for the steel netting which protected the big plate glass windows of Morgan & Co., the strength of the blast might have driven shattered glass into the building with such force as to have killed virtually every one in it. The Wall Street side of the building met the full force of the explosion. The netting bulged inward, breaking the blow before it touched the glass. The unprotected windows of the United States Assay Office, opposite, a more thinly peopled structure than the Morgan office, were obliterated.

Virtually all of the sidewalks in the financial district were closed to pedestrians in the afternoon. Glass from broken windows was continually falling to the street and the police ordered building owners to rope off the walks.

In addition to being one of the most prominent professional women in the United States, Miss L. G. Jones, the assistant cashier of the Bank of Cuba, at 34 Wall Street, is one of the most fortunate. Pieces of flying metal gouged her in another to the waist, but the explosion Miss Jones left her desk to telephone her mother. The blast occurred just as she reached the phone and a glass partition, a cabinet and other debris.

Had the explosion occurred a few minutes after noon except on the hour the death roll might have been hundreds. Stenographers, clerks and others from the nearby buildings had just begun to emerge into the street on their way to luncheon. With an answer to the question of the street would have been crowded. Instead only the first trickle of those a trifle ahead of time, headed for the choicest luncheon seats, was caught.

The great statue of George Washington in front of the Sub-Treasury stood through the affair without a scratch. Pieces of flying metal gouged holes in buildings in every direction, even cutting a large slice from a window on the second floor of the Bankers Trust Building at Nassau and Wall. The United States Assay Office, the

**Morgan Building Constructed To Be Nearly Bombproof**  
Structure During War Was Constantly Guarded by Detectives; Walls 2 Feet Thick Made of Concrete

The home of J. P. Morgan & Co., at 23 Wall Street, was erected for the Morgan company at a cost of \$4,000,000, according to Goodhue Livingston, a member of the firm of Trowbridge & Livingston, architects, of 527 Fifth Avenue. This firm drew the plans for the building and supervised its construction. It was built by Marc Edlitz, contractor.

While no building, said Mr. Trowbridge yesterday, is actually bombproof, the Morgan building is as near being bombproof as a structure can be. When the building was under construction the architects bore in mind that at some time it might be subjected to the terrific shock of an explosion.

The walls of the building are two feet thick and are made of concrete. Stretched across the top of the building is a heavy wire mesh, which, according to Mr. Livingston, will cause any bomb or missile thrown on the top of the building to rebound upon striking the net. All windows in the building are covered by gratings of bronze. The immense vault is beneath the building.

During the war, when J. P. Morgan's life was threatened many times because of his activity in granting loans to the Allies, the Morgan building was constantly guarded by special detectives. Detectives remained on duty in the vicinity at all hours for many months, and many of them were stationed in the Mills Building, adjoining the Morgan building.

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## Morgan Firm Clerk Killed and Buried By Skylight Glass

At the moment the explosion occurred yesterday William D. Joyce, 30 years old, a clerk, employed by the Morgan firm, and son of Thomas W. Joyce, confidential adviser to Mr. Morgan and head of the securities department, was preparing to go to lunch. The skylight, twenty feet above him, collapsed and he was buried in a shower of broken glass. When an ambulance surgeon reached him he was dead.

His father at the same moment was in conversation with John Markl, multi-millionaire steel and coal operator of Pennsylvania, here to confer on the anthracite coal situation. Mr. Markl was painfully cut about the face and shoulders, as was Mr. Joyce, and both of them were targets for numerous bits of jagged glass that imbedded themselves in their legs. Mr. Markl was hurled to St. Vincent's Hospital, but later was taken to his suite in the Hotel Plaza.

Mr. Joyce, with the body of his son, was taken to his home, at 1808 Dimas Avenue, Brooklyn.

While none of the Morgan partners was killed or seriously injured, Julius Spencer Morgan, Mr. Morgan's son, was cut on the right hand by flying glass. That no fatalities occurred to these men attributed to the fact that precautions were taken when the building was constructed by having everything reinforced with one-eighth-inch steel wire. The wires held yesterday when the windows toppled in.

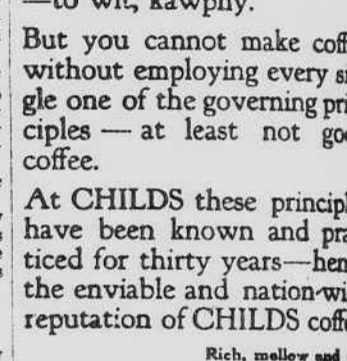
Several of Mr. Morgan's partners who were in the banking house at the time had retired to a windowless room on the second floor, where a conference was being held. They included Julius Spencer Morgan, Mr. Belmont, Dwight W. Morrow, Elliot Bacon and George W. Whitney.

**KAWPHY**  
Like the Town Councillor of Leeds, you may spell coffee without employing a single letter that occurs in the word—to wit, kawphy.

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**Chief Flynn of Department Of Justice Here For Inquiry**  
William Flynn, chief of the Department of Justice agents, reached the Pennsylvania Station at 10 o'clock last night on the Congressional Limited. He was in charge of the Federal inquiry into the Wall Street explosion, having been assigned to the task by Attorney General Palmer. Chief Flynn said that he had not obtained sufficient information to warrant expressing an opinion as to whether the explosion was accidental or premeditated.

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